

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SOCI 2000A
FALL 2025
FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY

Instructor: Azar Masoumi, PhD
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Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: SOCI 1001 and SOCI 1002, or SOCI 1003, or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002

Method of Delivery: this course will be delivered in-person with no option for online participation.

Class Time: Lecture: Tuesdays, 14:35-16:25
Tutorials: Tuesdays, 16:35-17:25 and 17:35-18:25

Course Description and Objectives:

In this course you will be introduced to the principles of sociological research. You will learn about the philosophical, ethical and practical considerations that underlie sociologists' decisions as they design, implement and complete research projects. You will learn how to come up with sociological research questions, how to create a corpus of existing knowledge around that question, and ultimately how to design a research project that would help answer that question. In this process, you will be introduced to a wide range of research methods (the tools sociologists use to generate knowledge) and learn about their limitations and advantages. This learning will prepare you to engage with social scientific research critically and lays the foundations for you to, eventually, contribute to the production of sociological knowledge.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will:

- Learn and apply the key philosophical and ethical principles of sociological research
- Learn the importance of de-centring Euro-centric ways of thinking about and doing 'research'
- Gain the ability to evaluate and produce a sociological research question
- Understand the purpose of and identify the principles of a good literature review
- Evaluate the advantages and limitations of various qualitative and quantitative methods
- Gain the ability to assess sociological knowledge

Readings:

Sheppard, Valerie A. 2019. An Introduction to Research Methods in Sociology. New Westminister, B. C.: *Justice Institute of British Columbia*. Free access [here](#).
All other readings will be accessible online through Ares the Carleton library.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Weekly Quizzes: 50%

Weekly Class Activities: 50%